

Remarks

The specification is amended to clearly identify the first arrangement and the second arrangement of the sleeve handle, and to add the reference numeral 26 identifying the second arrangement of the sleeve handle. The first arrangement of the sleeve handle was identified by the reference numeral 22 in the application as originally filed. No new matter is being introduced.

As set forth above, the drawings are amended to include the reference numeral 26 identifying the second arrangement of the sleeve handle. Again, no new matter is being introduced.

Claims 1-11 and 17-20 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 17 are in independent form. Claims 12-16 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 17 are amended.

Claims 1-11 and 17-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsieh (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,561). Claims 1 and 17 are amended to clarify that the first arrangement prevents rotation of the mounted sleeve of the first type and the second arrangement permits guided rotation of the mounted sleeve of the second type. The Examiner argues that the Hsieh reference discloses a sleeve handle having a first arrangement (citing reference numeral 21 of the Hsieh reference), with the first arrangement preventing rotation of a mounted sleeve. However, referring to column 1, lines 10-15 and column 2, lines 54-67 of the Hsieh reference, the Hsieh reference is clear that the first arrangement 21 does not prevent rotation, but merely limits rotary motion to one direction, i.e., the sleeve is stopped from

rotating in one direction but is free to rotate in an opposite direction. Accordingly, the first arrangement 21 of the Hsieh reference does not prevent rotation, but only limits rotation to a single direction. Accordingly, the Hsieh reference does not disclose all of the limitations of the currently amended claims 1 and 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 17 are not anticipated by the Hsieh references, and are therefore in condition for allowance.

Additionally, the ratchet mechanism disclosed in the Hsieh reference does not relate to a surgical tool. Thus, one skilled in the art of surgical tools would not consider the ratchet mechanism of the Hsieh reference when considering the subject invention of this application.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2), as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 is amended to clarify that Applicant is not claiming the mounted sleeve of the first type. Thus, the Examiner's interpretation that claim 3 claims just the handle is correct.

Claims 3 and 6 stand objected to for informalities. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6 are amended to correct the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

As claims 2-11 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 18-20 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-11 and 18-20 are also in condition for allowance.

The remaining references cited but not applied to the claims have been considered. Since the Examiner has apparently considered these references as less pertinent than the above discussed reference(s), further discussion of the non-applied references, at this time, is

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considered unnecessary. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the subject patent application patentably define over all references of record either independently or in combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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